

want to raise the Federal debt ceiling \$1.8 trillion. The current debt in the country is over \$12 trillion.

When I first came here 3 years ago, I introduced a constitutional balanced budget amendment. I hear up here the last 3 years that the Democrats are the problem, the Republicans are the problem on the spending. They're both the problem. In the last 50 years, they've only balanced the budget five or six times, yet 49 out of 50 Governors have to balance the budget.

Our State of Florida has had a tough cycle in terms of revenues. They've cut expenses. Families are cutting expenses. Small businesses in our communities are cutting 20, 30 percent in expenses, yet we're raising expenses 12 percent.

The time is now. We almost had a constitutional balanced budget amendment in 1994. That's the only thing that's going to solve the problem. We need to act today as Democrats and Republicans and do what's right for America and Americans.

SS ST. LOUIS

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week I had the chance to meet with some of the survivors of the *SS St. Louis* in my community of south Florida. This was a memorable and moving experience that provides each of us with a powerful lesson about our past.

As you know, the *SS St. Louis* carried nearly 1,000 Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany in 1939, and, shamefully, the United States turned the ship away. Its passengers were sent back to Europe where hundreds of them perished. We cannot forget this dark moment in our Nation's history, and we must remember the story and share it with our next generation in order to keep our promise of "never again."

I'd like to associate myself with Senate Resolution 111 passed by the U.S. Senate, which recognizes the tragedy of the *SS St. Louis* and honors the memory of the passengers who lost their lives. I join my colleagues and continue to pay tribute to those who did not survive, and I express my gratitude for the opportunity to join the survivors in person this week.

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AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN BORDER AND U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to be with our resilient troops last week in Afghanistan near the violent southern border with Pakistan. Part of their mission is to secure the border by preventing drugs, arms, money and Taliban criminals

from crossing back and forth through the vast border regions. It's in America's interest to have our military in Afghanistan and protect the sovereignty of that country.

It is ironic, however, we see the need to protect the borders of other nations; but because of political reasons, we don't have the moral will to protect our own borders. This is not the first administration that has given a wink and a nod to our porous borders, but it should be the last.

Our southern border region is a haven for organized criminal cartels, gun smugglers, human smugglers and rogue outlaws that cross as freely as they did in the days of the old west. We should be as concerned about protecting our own border as we are about protecting the borders of Third World countries like Afghanistan. We should put our military on the border if necessary.

After all, the first duty of government is protection of our own homeland.

And that's just the way it is.

JOBS

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today for American working men and women who want to work but can't find a job. The Nation's unemployment rate stands at 10 percent, with my home State of California ranking third worst in the country.

While I support a stronger safety net to help families survive, in the end, Americans don't want unemployment checks. They want to work.

That's why I'm proud to support the Jobs for Main Street Act which will put Americans back to work in the most direct way possible: by hiring them. This bill makes overdue investments in America's rails, roads and schools and in well-paying Davis-Bacon-covered jobs for our workers.

The benefits for our economy of encouraging unionized jobs cannot be overstated. As the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the Nation, but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole Nation to undreamed of levels of production."

May this bill continue in that tradition.

JOBS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as we approach the Christmastime, too many Americans are asking, Where are the jobs? In January, the unemployment rate was 7.6 percent. Only 10 months

later, the national unemployment reached a whopping 10.2 percent, the highest level since April 1983. That means today there are 15.7 million unemployed Americans looking for work.

House Republicans have an economic recovery plan that will help get Americans back to work. Our economic recovery plan will create twice the jobs at half the cost of the Democrats' failed stimulus plan.

How ironic that our colleagues are coming to the floor today to talk about the need for jobs when it is their votes and the policies of this President that have killed so many jobs.

It's time we started working on behalf of the American people and focus on real commonsense solutions that will help put people get back to work and let them celebrate Christmas in a wonderful way.

JOB CREATION PROGRAM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to respond to my good friend on the other side of the aisle from the great State of North Carolina who pointed out that there are many jobless Americans. That's true, but let's put this in perspective. The last month that former President Bush was in office, this country lost over 750,000 jobs.

Under President Barack Obama's leadership, we are trending in the right direction. This last month, we lost 11,000 jobs. The last 5 months of the Bush administration, they lost well over 600,000 jobs.

And as Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz pointed out at a joint economic hearing last week, that job creation during the Bush administration was fueled by an artificial bubble. Inflated housing prices and a ballooning real estate market spurred consumption and hiring and put us in a very dangerous position where we find ourselves today.

We owe it to the 15 million jobless Americans to invest in aggressive job creation policies which will be on the floor today in the Democratic jobs program.

STOP THE AUTOMATIC PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN FISCAL YEAR 2011 ACT

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, my colleague, Dr. RON PAUL, and I have once again introduced legislation to stop Members of Congress from receiving the next scheduled automatic pay raise. Earlier this year, we introduced legislation to block the fiscal year 2010 pay raise, and we were joined by a bipartisan coalition of more than 100 of our colleagues in the process. Thanks to their help, as well as that of our leadership, the fiscal year 2010 pay raise was blocked.

With unemployment so high and so many families struggling to make ends meet, we believe that it would be wrong for Congress to now raise its own pay in fiscal year 2011. Right now, we need our focus to be on getting people back to work, shoring up the economy, and keeping our families and communities safe, not on giving ourselves a pay raise. The American people are not getting a raise. Neither should Congress.

I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to do the same and join Dr. RON PAUL and me in stopping the next automatic pay raise from taking effect by supporting H.R. 4255, the Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3326, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010; FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 64, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2010; FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4314, PERMITTING CONTINUED FINANCING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS; FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2847, JOBS FOR MAIN STREET ACT, 2010

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-380) on the resolution (H. Res. 976) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 64) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes; for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4314) to permit continued financing of Government operations; for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 973 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 973

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to con-

sider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported on the legislative day of December 16, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. FOXX. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 973.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 973 waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII which requires a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee. This waiver applies to any resolutions reported on the legislative day of December 16, 2009. This will allow the House to consider today important legislation, including legislation to ensure the funding of our military in addition to measures to put people back to work.

Madam Speaker, we must act quickly to deliver the bills before us today that will fund our military and get people back to work. Today the House will take up several measures that will fund our military and make critical investments in the Nation's infrastructure in order to put people back to work. We have the opportunity today to take the bailout money that was used as a lifeline to Wall Street and give that money back to the American people and those who have been hit hardest by these tough economic times.

The legislation that we will take up later today will divert the TARP money to programs that will create and save jobs across the country. We do this by investing \$75 billion of TARP money into highways, to transit, to school renovation, to hiring teachers, police and firefighters, to supporting small businesses, job training and affordable housing.

For those hit hardest by the recession, this bill also provides emergency relief by extending programs like Unemployment Benefits, COBRA and FMAP, which is health care funding for our States, and the child care tax credit. These are measures that we must pass to build a foundation for long-term economic recovery.

This is not an ordinary day; and given the importance of this legislation, I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will support this rule so that we can move quickly to enact these critically important measures.

I wish, as so many of my colleagues wish, that we weren't faced with such difficult problems. I wish that when the Democrats took over the majority, we weren't saddled with two wars, a recession and a \$1.3 trillion deficit. But wishing won't make these problems go away. There is real urgency in the actions before us today, and I truly hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this rule to allow us to move forward.

Later in the day, we will debate the merits of all of this legislation and the grave implications of not passing these bills. But right now, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and allow us to move forward on the debate to complete the work that we were sent here to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding the time this morning.

I want to say that it seems every time we come here, we have to do a little bit of correcting people's memory and their recollection of history. My colleague just said when they took over the majority, we had a \$1.3 trillion deficit. I think if she will check her facts, she will see that the \$1.3 trillion deficit came about as a result of the Democrats' taking over the majority. She may not have been here in 2007, but when they took over the majority, I believe that the deficit was \$259 billion, and they made it \$1.3 trillion this year with their Democratic President.

We are here considering a same-day martial law rule. Now, I understand that there are times when we need to move quickly when we are faced with an immediate crisis. However, I think the word "crisis" has been overused particularly this year. We haven't had much by way of crisis this year, and yet they're trying to make it a crisis by bringing in this, again, same-day martial law rule.

The Rules Committee met last night at 8:45. We didn't get the text of the bills that we're going to be debating and the rule that we're going to approve again in a few minutes, or a little while, so we've had very little time to be able to deal with these things. But we've known about this for a long, long time. We've known that the funding for the government would run out Friday night for over a month. So what have we been doing during that period of time when we should have been preparing for this day?

Let me give some ideas on what we've been doing by reading out some of the bills that we've been voting on on the floor: expressing support for designation of November 29, 2009, as "Drive Safer Sunday," surely something that the country could not live without, without our voting on it; expressing support for designation of the week beginning on November 9, 2009, as "National School Psychology Week," another extraordinarily important